

BNL Students, Postdocs Form ASAP

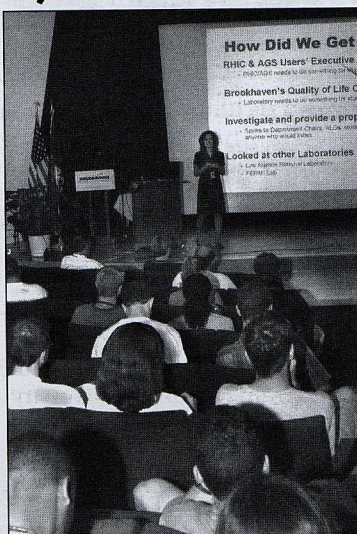
Over BNL's long history, many students have worked on site as undergrads, graduate students, and postdocs. But there has never been an organization for students, until this summer — when ASAP, or the Association for Students and Postdocs, was established.

The organization seeks to foster camaraderie and professional development among BNL's young scientists, by organizing and encouraging participation in a variety of scientific and social activities at the Lab and on Long Island. Also, ASAP will advocate the interests of students and postdocs to the Lab's scientific departments and divisions, and BNL management.

The movement to form a student organization was born following a suggestion of the RHIC & AGS Users' Executive Committee to the Lab's Quality of Life (QOL) Committee. QOL asked its member Susan White-DePace, who oversees the RHIC & AGS Users' Center, and Jeff Mitchell of the Physics Department to gather interested students and other pertinent staffers. In addition to White-DePace and Mitchell, this group included: QOL/Recreation/BERA Supervisor Christine Carter, Staff Services Division; Cecila Hanke, National Synchrotron Light Source (NSLS) Department; Anna Kulesca, Physics; Edson Kakuno, NSLS; Brian Murfin, Office of Educational Programs Manager; Nina Nami, OEP; Renée Flack, OEP; Anuj Purwar, Physics; Andriyo Rusydi, NSLS; Gregory Smith, NSLS; and Rainer Soika, Magnet Division.

On June 24, at the initial meeting of approximately 75 students and postdocs, it was determined that there is sufficient interest in a student group. As a result, subgroups of students and postdocs were set up, to work on a charter, Web page, proposed calendar of events, election procedures — and the selection of ASAP's name.

One big result of these working groups was that the ASAP



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June 24 meeting of students and postdocs with Susan White DePace.

charter was approved by the Laboratory's Policy Council and Interim Director Peter Paul. The ASPA charter can be found on the group's Web page — www2.bnl.gov/ASAP/ — which is another task accomplished by ASAP members.

In response to ASAP's request for meeting space dedicated to students and postdocs, the reception and conference area in Bldg. 750, which contained the High Flux Beam Reactor, will be renovated as an ASAP lounge. Brookhaven Science Associates, through its member institutions Stony Brook University and Battelle, is providing the funding for ASAP's lounge furnishings and amenities.

Now, ASAP is looking for a logo, so it invites students, postdocs, facility-users, other guests, and employees to participate in its logo competition. Entries are due by November 1 and are to be submitted to Susan White-DePace, Bldg. 355A, or swd@bnl.gov. Not only will ASAP select a winning logo, but the group will also recognize the winner in an appropriate way.

In November, another ASAP contest will be held, when elections for its officers — president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer — will take place. Those interested in running for such offices are invited to contact Jeff Mitchell, Ext. 3015 or mitchell@bnl.gov.